

CLAIMS

1. In a data processing apparatus (105) executing a hypertext-document browsing software application, a method of managing requests to print a selected hypertext electronic document comprising:

- a) creating an output electronic document and incorporating therein an information content of the selected hypertext electronic document; and
- b) automatically inspecting the selected hypertext electronic document for detecting hypertext links included therein, each hypertext link linking a respective linked hypertext electronic document to the selected hypertext electronic document;

further comprising, for each hypertext link detected in the selected hypertext electronic document:

- c) automatically accessing the respective linked hypertext document;
- d) extracting from the linked hypertext document an indication of an information content thereof;
- e) providing the user with said indication of the information content of the linked hypertext electronic document;
- f) conditioned by a selection of the user, including at least said indication of the information content of the linked hypertext electronic document into the output electronic document.

2. The method according to claim 1, in which act f) comprises including at least said indication of the information content of the linked hypertext electronic document at a position within the output electronic document corresponding to a position of the respective hypertext link in the selected hypertext electronic document.

3. The method according to claim 1 in which act f) further comprises, for each hypertext link enabling the user to chose (i) not to include, (ii) to include only said indication of the information content or (iii) to include the full information content of the respective linked hypertext document.

4. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

iterating the acts b) to f) on each linked hypertext electronic document, until a predefined level of iteration is reached.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising:

enabling the user defining said level of iteration.

6. The method according to claim 1 in which said acts e) and f) include:

generating a tree-like diagram of the linked hypertext electronic documents, said tree-like diagram including a tree node for each linked hypertext electronic document;

displaying to the user the tree-like diagram, associated with each tree node the indication of the information content of the respective linked hypertext electronic document, and

enabling the user to define, for each tree node, whether or not at least the indication of the information content of the respective linked hypertext document is to be included in the output electronic document.

7. The method claim 1, further including sending the output electronic document to a printer for printing onto a material support, or storing the output electronic document on a storage device.

8. A computer program directly loadable into a memory of a data processing apparatus, for actuating the method according to any one of the preceding claims when the program is executed.

9. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium on which the computer program of claim 8 is stored.

10. A hypertext-document browsing software application, comprising:

means for locating and accessing selected hypertext electronic documents according to respective addresses; and

means for managing requests of printing of the selected hypertext electronic documents, characterized in that

said means for managing print requests includes;

means for automatically inspecting a selected hypertext electronic document to be printed for detecting hypertext links, each hypertext link linking a respective linked hypertext electronic document to the selected hypertext electronic document;

means for automatically accessing the hypertext documents corresponding to the detected hypertext links, without having the user personally activating the corresponding hypertext link;

means for providing the user with an indication of an information content of each of

the linked hypertext electronic documents, and for enabling the user defining whether or not the linked document is to be printed, and

means for creating an output electronic document containing an information content of the selected hypertext electronic document and, conditioned by a selection made by the user, at least said indication of the information content of the respective linked hypertext electronic document.

11. A data processing system supporting the exchange of hypertext electronic documents, comprising at least one computer programmed to execute the hypertext document browsing software application of claim 8.